

ELKO INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

News Release

**Wednesday, June 28, 2006, 8:00 p.m.
Elko County Fires, Update #8**

**Contact: (775) 748-4141
or (775) 753-0386, or
(775)-748-4081**

FIRES CONTINUE BURNING NEAR ELKO, NEVADA

Elko, Nevada ... Fire fighters make progress on Elko County Fires

Three large fires burning in northeastern Nevada continue to cause concerns to residents

The Suzie Fire is burning in sagebrush and grass about five miles northwest of Elko. The fire has grown to more than 78,300 acres and is approximately 20% contained. Over 350 fire fighters worked on the Suzie Fire today. Currently, a small area is burning on the northeastern flank of the fire and some isolated islands are burning in the fire's interior. Burnout operations were done today on the southeastern flank of the fire. Continuing night operations are planned on the northeastern edge.

Fire fighters got an assist from the weather when wetting rain fell on isolated portions of the fire. Another storm cell with scattered moisture is predicted for later tonight. Additional moisture and higher humidities are also forecast for Thursday morning.

The Nevada Department of Transportation helped fire fighters enormously by supplying three bulldozers and three road graders. The Stanich Type I Fire Management Team will assume management of the Suzie Fire at 7:00 a.m. Thursday morning.

The North Antelope Fire, which is located in a remote area about 28 miles north of Dunphy, has burned nearly 5,000 acres. The fire will be mapped Thursday morning to get an accurate size of the fire. Today saw active fire growth on the east and southeast flanks of the fire. Winds were steady and allowed firefighters to conduct burnout operations. Currently, the fire is headed towards an area that burned a few years ago. Approximately 115 people are working on this fire.

The Sneekie Fire started Monday in the Red Springs Wilderness Study Area about 5 miles west of Jiggs, Nevada. It has burned about 7,200 acres. Firefighters made good progress today, and the fire is currently estimated to be 50% contained. The Berndt Type II Interagency Management Team from Washington is managing the Sneekie Fire. About 240 people are assigned to this fire.

A press conference and community meeting was held today in Elko for concerned members of the public to meet with fire managers and local, state, and federal agency officials.

“Fire fighters on all three large fires in Elko County got a good break from the weather today,” said BLM Elko Assistant Fire Management Officer Jeff Arnberger. “Despite the red flag weather warning, the storm cells did not materialize to the extent they had during the past few days, so firefighters were able to make some good progress today.”

A fire state of emergency was declared in Elko County by the Elko County Commission and a 30-day ban on burn barrels was put into effect.

All local, state, and federal fire fighting agencies are urging the public’s cooperation and caution during this period of extreme fire danger.

###